

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

OKABE, Masao

**No.602, Fuji Bldg., 2-3,
Marunouchi 3-chome,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 1000005
Japan**

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

08. 3. 2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference

10002906WO01

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/017036

International filing date (day/month/year)

10.11.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)

21.11.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Int.Cl.⁷ **G06F12/14, G06F15/00, G06F17/60, G06K17/00**

Applicant

CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Date of completion of this opinion

10.02.2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP

Japan Patent Office

3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan

Authorized officer

Masaru TAKAHASHI

Telephone No. +81-3-3581-1101 Ext. 3585

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Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

- ☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- ☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1 - 22</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	<u>1 - 22</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1 - 22</u>	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

D1 = [JP 2003-242285 A (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL & TECHNOLOGY BERURINKU:KK), 29.08.2003, whole document (family: none)]

D2 = [JP 2003-110490 A (FUJITSU TEN LTD.), 11.04.2003, whole document, especially paragraphs [0035]-[0066] (family: none)]

D3 = [JP 2003-288275 A (FUJITSU LTD.), 10.10.2003, whole document, especially abstract, paragraphs [0018]-[0026] & US 2003/188199 A1]

The subject matter of claim 1 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of the documents 1-3 cited in the ISR.

D1 discloses a system comprising:

an information reading/writing unit to read information from a portable terminal and to write information into said portable terminal;

a storage unit to store the information read from said portable terminal and written into said portable terminal by said information reading/writing unit;

a control unit to control said information reading/writing unit;

wherein, when said portable terminal is brought out from the predetermined area, said control unit is adapted to preclude from reading predetermined information stored in said portable terminal and to write information read from said portable terminal into said storage unit.

D2 and D3 disclose a system being adapted:

to write area information into the portable terminal, said area information indicating whether the portable terminal was brought out from a predetermined area or the portable terminal was brought into the predetermined area;

to preclude from reading predetermined information stored in said portable terminal when said area information indicates said portable terminal was brought out from the predetermined area.

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claims 1-22 are not sufficiently supported by the description. The description discloses that area information is written by reader/writer when the portable storage medium is brought out ("exit") from the predetermined area or the portable storage medium is brought into ("enter") the predetermined area.

However, it is obvious that the area information does not always indicate whether or not the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area.

The term "to write the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium into the portable storage medium" used in Claim 6 is unclear.

Claim 17 is also unclear for the same reason.

The term "when the area information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area, said control unit is adapted to control said information writing unit to write the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium into the portable storage medium" used in Claim 6 contradicts the term "when the area information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area, said control unit is adapted to control said information writing unit to delete the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium" used in Claim 3.

Claim 17 is also unclear for the same reason.

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Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: ☒ V

Although D1 does not disclose the technical feature about "area information", D1, D2 and D3 share the same problem, that is, to preclude from reading predetermined information stored in a portable terminal when said portable terminal is brought out from the predetermined area, and employ the same technical feature. Therefore, employing the feature "area information" disclosed in D2 and D3 in order to constitute the present invention would have been easily conceived by the person skilled in the art.

The portable storage medium such as "Smart Card" or "Smart RFID" is generally known to the person skilled in the art. It would be obvious to the person skilled in the art to interchange the portable terminal with the portable storage medium. And the advantage of this interchange can readily be foreseen.

Claims 2-22 also do not meet the requirements with respect to inventive step.